

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 185690

ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 IO-13 ISO-00 DHA-02 L-03 SS-15

NSC-05 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /066 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/AFN:DLJAMESON:PAW

APPROVED BY NEA:NAVELIOTES

D/HA:KHILL (DRAFT)

L:GALDRICH (DRAFT)

AF/W:DKILLION

-----019471 070835Z /10

R 061813Z AUG 77

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

INFO AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 185690

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDIP, AG, US

SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE SAHARA QUESTION

REF: ALGIERS, 1752, 1807

1. DEPARTMENT SUPPORTS VIEW THAT WESTERN SAHARA IS  
ESSENTIALLY A POLITICAL PROBLEM WHICH CAN BEST BE RESOLVED  
ON A REGIONAL LEVEL BY THOSE MOST DIRECTLY INVOLVED,  
POSSIBLY WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF APPROPRIATE REGIONAL AND  
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS. AS A LEGAL QUESTION, THE U.S.  
RECOGNIZES THE RIGHT OF THE PEOPLE OF THE WESTERN SAHARA  
TO SELF-DETERMINATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ADVISORY  
OPINION OF THE ICJ, AND WE ACKNOWLEDGE THAT THIS RIGHT  
HAS NOT YET BEEN EXERCISED. HOWEVER, WE DO NOT BELIEVE  
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PAGE 02 STATE 185690

THAT THIS LEGAL ANALYSIS, BY ITSELF, PROVIDES A PRODUCTIVE  
BASIS FOR REACHING A VIABLE SOLUTION TO THE SITUATION AND WE  
DO NOT WANT TO ADDRESS THE ISSUE IN THESE TERMS WITH THE  
GOA OR OTHERS. IN DISCUSSIONS WITH GOA OFFICIALS REGARD-  
ING THE SAHARA, U.S. POSITION SHOULD REMAIN THAT STATED IN  
SECRETARY'S JUNE 22 LETTER TO BOUTEFLIKA. WE WISH TO  
AVOID CREATING IMPRESSION THAT A RECONSIDERATION OF OUR

POLICY ON HUMAN RIGHTS, OR OTHER, GROUNDS WILL BE FORTH-COMING.

2. QUESTION OF HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO SAHARAN REFUGEES IS SUBJECT OF SEPTEL.

3. ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND MATERIAL ON OVERALL HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY HAS BEEN POUCHEDE. CHRISTOPHER

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** HUMAN RIGHTS, DISPUTE SETTLEMENT, REFUGEES, SELFDETERMINATION  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 06-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977STATE185690  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** DLJAMESON:PAW  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
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**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
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**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
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**SAS ID:** 1682554  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE SAHARA QUESTION  
**TAGS:** PDIP, AG, US  
**To:** ALGIERS  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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EO Systematic Review  
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